



# News Release

## SOCIAL SECURITY

### **Social Security Awards Research Stipends to Improve Disability Program**

The Social Security Administration approved eight research projects through its Disability Determination Process Small Grant Program. This new program aims to improve the disability process through innovative research by graduate students focusing on topics such as the Compassionate Allowances program, Wounded Warriors initiative, homelessness and SSI, and disability enrollment issues.

The graduate student awardees are:

- Joseph Bocanegra, PhD candidate in Economics at the University of Albany - SUNY
- Kate Brown, Master of Bioscience candidate at Keck Graduate Institute of Applied Life Sciences
- Kathleen Chiarantona, Master of Social Work candidate at Columbia University
- Sharon Jung, PhD candidate in Clinical Psychology at Indiana University of Pennsylvania
- Casey MacGregor, PhD candidate in Social Welfare at the University of California – Los Angeles
- Christina Sogar, PhD candidate in Social Welfare at the University of California – Berkley
- Mary Ellen Stone, PhD candidate in Sociology at Case Western Reserve University
- Robin Telford, PhD candidate in Public Health at the University of South Florida

In October 2011, Social Security awarded Policy Research, Inc. (PRI) an approximately \$1.5 million grant for a five-year period to administer the Disability Determination Process Small Grant Program. PRI will solicit research proposals for the next academic year beginning March 13, 2012. Please go to <http://ddp.policyresearchinc.org/> for more information about the grant program and for application instructions.

For information about the Social Security research topics, please visit:

[www.socialsecurity.gov/woundedwarriors/](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/woundedwarriors/)  
[www.socialsecurity.gov/compassionateallowances/](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/compassionateallowances/)  
[www.socialsecurity.gov/homelessness/](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/homelessness/)

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